

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of managing a plurality of active devices, wherein the active devices each includes a management port which is connected to a respective management port of a concentrator device and a communication port of the concentrator device is connected to a communication port of a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

instructing the concentrator device to select at least one of the active devices to manage;

establishing a link between the communication port of the concentrator device and the management port of the concentrator device associated with the at least one selected active device; and

communicating with the at least one selected active device from the computer.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein instructing the concentrator device to select at least one of the active device to manage comprises:

manually activating a switch associated with the management port with which [[the]] a desired active device is connected.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein instructing the concentrator device to select at least one of the active devices to manage comprises:

selecting ~~[[the]]~~ a desired active device through a user interface on the computer; and

sending a signal to the concentrator device indicating the ~~[[selected]]~~ desired active device.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a signal to operate the concentrator device in simultaneous mode; and

establishing a simultaneous link between the ~~communications~~ communication port of the concentrator device and each of the selected management ports of the concentrator device.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein instructing the concentrator device to select at least one of the active devices to manage comprises:

manually activating a switch associated with the simultaneous mode.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of management ports support the same protocol.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication port of the concentrator device and the plurality of management ports support different protocols.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for managing multiple active devices, the apparatus comprising:

at least one communication port that is configured to be connected to a communication port of a computer;

a plurality of management ports that are each configured to be connected to a management port of a respective one of the active devices;

a switch for selectively connecting the at least one communication port to a selected one of the plurality of management ports; and

a microprocessor configured to establish a link between the communication port and at least one selected management port.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the microprocessor is configured to receive an external signal indicating the selected management port.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the microprocessor is configured to receive an internal signal indicating the selected management port, wherein the internal signal is generated based on the activation of one of said plurality of switches.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the microprocessor is configured to establish a simultaneous link between the communication port and two or more of the plurality of management ports.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the plurality of management ports support the same protocol.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the communication port and the plurality of management ports support different protocols.

14. (Previously Presented) A system for managing a plurality of active devices, the system comprising:

a concentrator device comprising at least one communication port, a microprocessor, and a plurality of management ports wherein each of the management ports is configured to be connected to a respective one of the active devices;

a computer comprising a user interface configured to receive an indication of which of the active devices is selected to be managed; and send a signal to the communication port of the concentrator device indicating the active device selected to be managed;

wherein the microprocessor is configured to:

receive an external signal from the computer indicating the selected active device; and

establish a link between the communication port and the management port associated with the selected active device.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium ~~comprising~~ for storing computer executable code for managing a plurality of active devices, the executable code configured to:

send signals to a concentrator device that includes a communication port and a plurality of management ports wherein each of the management ports is configured to be connected to a respective management port of the active devices;

receive signals from the concentrator device;

receive an indication from a user interface of which of ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of active devices is selected to be managed; and

wherein at least one of the signals sent to the concentrator device indicates one or more active devices to be managed.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein at least one of the signals received from the concentrator device ~~provided~~ provides information regarding establishment of a link between ~~[[a]]~~ the communication port and ~~a manage port~~ one of the plurality of management ports of the concentrator device.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein at least one of the signals received from the concentrator device is initiated in one of ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of active devices connected to the concentrator device.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein at least one of the signals sent to the concentrator device is passed to one or more of ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of active devices connected to the concentrator device.